



## **NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION** **HOW DO I BECOME AN INSTRUCTOR IN THE PROGRAM?**



The following five steps are mandatory and all must be completed. The first four steps may be accomplished in any order. The final step is always the last one. **Apprentice instructors cannot and should not sign student certification cards or registrations or file instructors' reports.**

The Commission has established a set of official policies that govern the Hunter Education programs. All applicants must be a minimum of 18 years of age living within Nebraska or 5 miles of its borders. They must be a licensed hunter who has never had their privilege to hunt suspended or revoked by any court. They should not have any felony or certain misdemeanor convictions, be under any court orders that would prevent them from participating in the program, or have any conviction involving game law violations. They must complete the five steps outlined below.

1. Everyone must fill out an application form and submit it to the Hunter Education Coordinator.
2. Everyone must attend an apprentice instructor workshop. There are several persons who can conduct these workshops. They are the Hunter Education Coordinator, Hunter Outreach Coordinator, any Master Instructor or any Conservation Officer.
3. Everyone must complete the Boy Scouts of America Youth Protection Course available from the BSA. Available on-line at [www.myscouting.org](http://www.myscouting.org) and from the local BSA council office. and furnish a certificate showing they have completed this course
4. Apprentice Instructors must help teach classes. During these classes they must teach during different segments of the class until their ability can be judged sufficient for them to be certified. At the end of this process the apprentice instructor report should be completed if they have met the expectations. See Apprentice Instructor report form for additional information.
5. The Ne. Game and Parks Commission will conduct a background check with federal and state law enforcement, NGPC Law Enforcement Division and seek the local conservation officers' endorsement from the information on the application submitted by the apprentice instructor.

Only the Hunter Education Coordinator will issue certification. This will be done after a review of the information from the above five steps.

Steps 1 through 4 may happen in any order but all four must happen for a person to be considered for certification. This process is controlled by the commission policy on the Hunter Education Program. Please call with questions, don't just pass up a step it slows down the certification.

The volunteer instructor is the most important part of our programs. It is imperative that our volunteer instructors effectively teach students the hunting principles related to ethical behavior, responsibility, safety and wildlife management. These volunteer instructors are a representative of the Commission when teaching students, and are vital to meeting the obligations to provide the mandatory Hunter and Bowhunter Education training on a state wide basis.

A new instructor in our program is called an apprentice instructor. This term also will apply to those instructors who are no longer certified and wish to regain certification. By policy, any person who has not taught for 36 months has lost their certification. All previous instructors who have not taught for 36 months will be considered apprentice instructors and may have to complete the five steps to become a certified instructor, contact the Hunter Education Coordinator for recommendations on how to proceed.